

Dear Alumni and Friends of Operations Research and Information Engineering (ORIE),

As the Ithaca summer winds to a close, and we complete preparations for new and returning students, I thought you might like an update on doings at ORIE. I will make this letter brief and encourage you to find more details online at www.orie.cornell.edu.

In June, Jim Renegar stepped down after five years as Director of ORIE. We salute him for his commitment and his contributions to the growth of the School. His calm but sure hand has shepherded ORIE through some turbulent times, built a strong team in the people of ORIE, and kicked off some exciting initiatives.

In July 2010, Adrian Lewis, who is simultaneously a leading researcher, an acclaimed teacher, and a skilled administrator, will become ORIE Director. Until then, I am serving as Interim Director, since Adrian and his wife, architecture professor Lily Chi, have a new baby girl, Nia Ylan, and Adrian will be on parental leave for a semester.

ORIE has had a very active year, with projects, awards, research initiatives and notable alumni accomplishments. The School continues to maintain a vibrant program at all levels, despite being significantly impacted by the budgetary issues that are affecting all of Cornell. Our faculty and students are engaged in a wide variety of contemporary topics, including preparedness for epidemics, farm-topsoil management, forecasting housing prices, the dynamics of the internet, and air-ambulance service provision all the way through to the new field of computational sustainability. In May, we graduated a remarkable group of students, including exceptional scholars, varsity captains, student leaders, and entrepreneurs.

At the annual alumni breakfast during Reunion Weekend, an attendee suggested we compile a history of the early days of ORIE, and that it include information about some of the early students who went on to establish themselves in Operations Research. A history of ORIE has in fact been compiled and will be available later this year - watch for an announcement on the web site. Meanwhile, if you received a degree from ORIE (under whatever name it had) in the early years and would like to have a profile included, please let [Mark Eisner \(me35@cornell.edu\)](mailto:me35@cornell.edu) know about your accomplishments in the field, along with your contact information. Whatever your graduation year, you can share your stories on the new [Alumni Notes](#) page.

While I could discuss all of this in detail in this letter, instead I call your attention to the [ORIE web site](#), where you can read about these activities and the people engaged in them in more than one hundred ORIE news items, with links to more extensive coverage of each story. Click on the [News & Events](#) link on any page, and check back from time to time to see whether the news has been updated with new items. You can filter the news by topic (e.g. [news about alumni](#)). If you use an RSS news reader, watch for a subscribe button, coming to the news page, that you can use to be informed of new ORIE items as they are published.

I also call your attention to the [Information for Alumni and Friends](#) link on all of the

ORIE web pages. This link will take you to a page intended specifically for you. It has links to pages where you can submit updated information about yourself, including any interest in mentoring students, as well as items for the new [Alumni Notes](#) page. The current version of the alumni and friends page also lists some ways in which you can help ORIE. Please [let us know](#) of ways in which this page can be enhanced to help you, your fellow alums and other ORIE friends.

We are proud of the accomplishments of our alumni and friends and value your input. Please do keep in touch!

Yours sincerely,
Shane Henderson, Interim Director
School of Operations Research and Information Engineering